

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00

AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 OIC-02 DHA-02 ORM-02 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ABF-01

/119 R

DRAFTED BY IO:DHP:CJNEE:LYM

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

IO/DHP:CENORRIS

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NEA/RA:JCHEEK

OMB:MUSNICK

AID:SBIDDLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 288048

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNRWA

SUBJECT: U.S. STATEMENT FOR UNRWA PLEDGING CONFERENCE

1. THE U.S. STATEMENT FOR THE UNRWA PLEDGING CONFERENCE, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, SHOULD BE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

2. "OVER THE YEARS UNRWA HAS PLAYED AN INDISPENSABLE ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN PROVIDING BASIC HUMANITARIAN SERVICES

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TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEES. UNRWA HAS BECOME AN INTEGRAL

PART OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN STABILITY AND CALM IN THE AREA WHILE THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE UNDERLYING POLITICAL PROBLEMS PROCEEDS. BECAUSE OF THIS IT IS A MATTER OF PROFOUND CONCERN TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY WHEN UNRWA EXPERIENCES FINANCIAL PROBLEMS ON THE SCALE IT FACED THIS YEAR. FOR 1976 THE UNITED STATES INITIALLY PLEDGED \$26.7 MILLION TO UNRWA. AS THE DIMENSIONS OF UNRWA'S FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES UNFOLDED DURING THE YEAR WE INCREASED OUR PLEDGE BY ANOTHER \$12 MILLION FOR A TOTAL OF \$38.7 MILLION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS AND SIMILAR EXTRA EFFORTS BY

OTHER GOVERNMENTS, UNRWA IS NEAR TO CLOSING ITS RESOURCES GAP FOR 1976. WE SINCERELY HOPE STILL MORE GOVERNMENTS WILL JOIN THE EXTRA EFFORT NEEDED TO INSURE THE 1976 DEFICIT IS COVERED IN FULL.

3. "LOOKING TO 1977 WE SHARE THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL'S CONCERN ABOUT THE UNCERTAINTIES UNRWA FACES WITH REGARD TO RESOURCES. MY GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT AGAIN TO MEET ITS REASONABLE SHARE OF THE BURDEN. AT THIS TIME I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A CONTRIBUTION FOR 1977 FOR THE UNITED STATES OF \$26.7 MILLION. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS PREPARING A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN 1977 SUBJECT TO PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL AND CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION ACTION. WE HOPE AND TRUST OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN A FINANCIAL POSITION TO DO SO WILL ALSO MAKE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS FOR 1977 SO THAT UNRWA'S IMPORTANT WORK CAN CONTINUE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

4. "IN CONCLUSION, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO UNRWA COMMISSIONER GENERAL SIR JOHN RENNIE AND HIS ABLE STAFF. DURING THE PAST YEAR, DESPITE VERY SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO THE PERFORMANCE OF WHAT IS AT BEST A VERY DIFFICULT JOB, THEY CONTINUED TO DELIVER UNRWA SERVICES WITH GREAT DEDICATION AND OUTSTANDING EFFICIENCY." ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLITICAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE288048
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DHP:CJNEE:LYM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760437-0564
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761117/aaaaaoas.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2004 by castels>; APPROVED <22 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. STATEMENT FOR UNRWA PLEDGING CONFERENCE
TAGS: SGEN, XF, US, UNRWA
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006